

February, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known the applicant, Ryan Arciero, as a prospective education student at Lewis University in Romeoville, Illinois. He was a student here from 2009 until he graduated with a BA in English (concentration in literature) in 2013. I was his instructor in classes and his advisor. He was one of the most talented and dedicated students I have seen in my 40 years of teaching.

Ryan is highly motivated, very creative and well organized. In class, he excelled at all he did. In my method's class, we developed units and lessons for content areas. Being an English major, Ryan produced creative literary units or writing lessons. He could intertwine all aspects of English skills into a unit that challenged students while making the lessons fun and informative. He employed hands-on strategies to engage the students and to allow them to better comprehend the material. He believed that by doing, students would grasp the ideas more fully. Ryan developed meaningful and genuine assessments for his students also. Every aspect of the lessons or unit was organized to achieve the most with his classes.

I also worked with Ryan during his field experience. At Lewis, students did 50 hours in a middle school placement and 50 hours in a high school placement. Ryan excelled in both and related to both age groups. He made the classes entertaining and relevant. Unfortunately, when it came time to student teach, Ryan felt that he was not ready to pursue education as a career. Everyone felt that he was destined to become an outstanding instructor, but Ryan was just not ready at the time.

Ryan enrolled at the University of South Florida to pursue graduate school. During his time there, he was able to teach his own class in Composition I as a graduate assistant in the fall of 2014 and fell back in love with teaching and working with students. I know that he was just not ready to commit to teaching his senior year at Lewis; but as with all young people, he has realized that that is the career for him. He has all the personal attributes to relate to students and the knowledge of his content and the pedagogy to make learning interesting and successful for all of his students.

Ryan has even written two novels. He has published his first novel, The Skyscraper of Babel, while at Lewis. Since then he has also completed the sequel, Babel's Bastion. He has contributed articles for on line magazines and served as a free lance writer. I know that Ryan will become the excellent instructor that we envisioned while he was at Lewis.